

Oklahoma Crop Production

2006 Crop Production Review

The 2006 wheat season started very dry and remained that way throughout the growing season. The winter wheat condition rating peaked at 56 percent good or excellent in late October and early November. However, as the drought wore on, wheat conditions plummeted. The wheat harvest began during the third week of May with 71 percent of the crop rated poor or very poor. Wheat was 99 percent harvested by July 2. Total production for wheat was 81.6 million bushels, the lowest since 1971.

The drought hurt production of other small grains as well. Oat production was down 41 percent, the lowest total since records began in 1897. Rye production decreased 26 percent and was the lowest since 1996.

Production for all of Oklahoma's major row crops were also down due to drought conditions. Production for grain sorghum totaled 6.8 million bushels, the lowest since 1956. Corn for grain production at 23.1 million bushels, was down 20 percent from the previous year. Cotton production at 190,000 bales was the lowest since 2000. Peanut yields averaged 3,000 pounds per acre, while acreage was 22,000, the lowest since 1927.

Total hay production in 2006 was down 29 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged only 1.13 tons per acre, the lowest since 1956 when the yield was 0.88 tons per acre. The yield for alfalfa hay was 2.10 tons per acre, the lowest since 1957's 1.80 tons per acre.

Other crops also saw production decreases in 2006. Pecan production dropped 7 million pounds from 2005, to 14.0 million pounds. Peach production at 1,700 tons, was down nine percent from the previous year. Watermelon production decreased 405,000 cwt. to 320,000 cwt.